

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-13 and 25-52 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 13, 25, 37, 40-42, 46, and 47 being independent.

Claims 1-13 and 25-36 have been allowed.

Claims 37, 40, and 41 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for the amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Figure 3 of the drawings was objected to by the Draftsperson on grounds that the top margin was not acceptable. Attached hereto is a replacement sheet for Fig. 3 in which the top margin has been adjusted. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 37-39 and 42-45 stand rejected under 35.U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,268,926 B1 (Okimoto, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,061,700 (Brobst, et al.). (It appears that this rejection also was meant to apply to Claims 40 and 41.) Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As discussed in the specification at, for example, page 1, lines 9-17, software providers often provide demonstration versions of their software on-line (called Free-ware or Share-ware), in order to encourage customers to purchase the full version of the software. A drawback of supplying software in this manner, however, is that many users continue to utilize the demonstration version of the software without ever purchasing the full version. Accordingly, there is a need for a system and/or method that allows software providers (including developers and/or suppliers of the software) to provide a demonstration version of their software online in a

manner that will encourage users to purchase the full version without continuing to use the demonstration version.

The present invention as recited in independent Claim 37 is directed to addressing this drawback of conventional software distribution methods, and it does so by including, *inter alia*, the features of determining whether an amount of a plurality of selected documents exceeds a predetermined value, and printing a number of the plurality of selected documents up to the predetermined value, if the amount exceeds the predetermined value, and otherwise printing each of the plurality of selected documents. In this manner, an individual can use and evaluate the capabilities of software and print examples of documents created using the software, but the predetermined value establishes a limit on the amount of use the individual may make of the software. Support for these features may be found, for example, at least at page 5, line 28 to page 6, line 12 and at page 6, lines 20-25 of the specification.

Applicant submits that none of the cited art discloses or suggests at least the above-mentioned features. Okimoto discloses a mail transmission/reception system which determines whether or not a number of sheets required to print a received print mail is equal to or higher than a prescribed number. If the number of sheets to be printed exceeds the prescribed number, the print data in the print mail is compacted so that one quarter the amount of printing paper will be needed. Thus, the entire contents of the information is maintained without deleting any of the contents of the print mail, but the content is compacted to a reduced format so that it can be printed using a smaller number of sheets. However, Okimoto does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of printing a number of pages up to a predetermined value, if it is determined that the amount of selected documents exceeds the predetermined value, and otherwise printing

each of the selected documents. Instead, that patent disclose printing all of the pages, but in a compacted format.

Okimoto Also discloses that a device can be controlled to display a message asking the operator to input confirmation of whether print mail data should be printed in the compacted format. If it is important that the mail be printed in normal size, the operator can reject printing in the compacted format. However, Applicant submits that this disclosure would not teach or suggest printing a number of documents up to a predetermined value, if it is determined that the amount of selected documents exceeds the predetermined value, and otherwise printing each of the selected documents. Instead, Applicant submits that this merely shows that in the system of Okimoto, a user can override the limit and print *more than* the predetermined number of pages in the normal, non-compacted format.

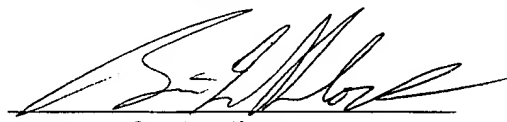
Applicant submits that Brobst does not remedy the aforementioned deficiencies of Okimoto. Brobst discloses an apparatus and method for formatting a specified group of related web pages into a single web pages, which allows a user to define a number of selected pages and associated relation criteria for each selected page. However, that patent also fails to disclose or suggest printing a number of selected documents up to a predetermined value, if it is determined that the amount of selected documents exceeds a predetermined value, and otherwise printing each of the selected documents. If the disclosure of Brobst were combined with that of Okimoto, Applicant submits that the result would be a system wherein a user could selected a specified group of related web pages for printing and, if the number of pages exceeded a specified number, the user would be prompted as to whether they wished to print the selected pages in compacted format.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 37 is patentable over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination. Independent Claims 40-42, 46, and 47 each recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to Claim 37, and those claims are believed patentable for the same reasons. Dependent Claims 38, 39, and 43-45 are patentable at least for the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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